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ABSTRACT

A survey of the status of language usage in Morocco begins with an overview of the distribution and usage of Arabic, the official language, the Berber dialects, and French, an unofficial second language. The continuing high status and widespread use of French despite arabization efforts is discussed. A matrix follows that rates these languages and vernaculars on: (1) their usage rating using State Department classifications; (2) increase and decrease trends by the year 2000; (3) chief of state use in addressing the populace; (4) use in armed forces, government, court, and diplomatic communications, written and oral; (5) use as a language of instruction or required language in higher education, on the secondary and elementary levels, and in adult education; (6) use in the popular press, radio and television broadcasting, and film; (7) business and professional use, written and oral; (8) use in intellectual circles; (9) the alphabet situation; (10) the status of indigenous literature; (11) use in public signs and notices; and (12) the availability of instructional materials and dictionaries in the native languages for use in teaching English as a second language. Explanatory notes give the number and population percentages using the languages, the type of alphabet used, and specific instructional materials titles. A selected bibliography is also included. (MSE)

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Language/Area Reference Center

COUNTRY STATUS REPORT:

MOROCCO

December, 1984

Prepared by:

Margaret McFerren

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Modern Standard or classical Arabic is the official language of Morocco. Moroccan colloquial Arabic is spoken as a native language by approximately 60% of the country's population. The remaining 40% speaks any one of the several Berber dialects currently in use in Morocco, represented simply as Berber on the Language Use Matrix. French is used as a second official language, even though it is not recognized as such, and it is estimated that 40% of the population speaks it as a second language with varying degrees of proficiency (probably less than half of that number, for example, both read and write French).

In spite of government intentions to "Moroccanize" and "Arabize" the administration, education and cultural life in Morocco, French is a language widely used in each of these spheres, a policy which had not changed considerably since Morocco's independence from France in 1956. Gradually, however, the process of arabization, seen as inevitable by many, is gathering momentum due to widespread attitudinal changes and government acceleration of arabization since the late 1970's.

In certain government ministries, however, heavy use is made of French in oral and written communications. A good knowledge of French is still required for many administrative posts and French is absolutely essential for any work in science, technology and medicine. The most notable exceptions to this are the Ministries of Justice and of Culture and Islamic Affairs, which operate exclusively via Arabic. In the courts, for example, questioning and cross-examination is done in Moroccan colloquial Arabic, while court addresses, summations and sentencing are presented in Modern Standard Arabic. All written court documents and proceedings are prepared in Modern Standard Arabic.

The widespread use of French is observed as well in notices and documents; alongside Arabic on shop signs, in printed material in banks, travel agencies, airports and post offices. While French used to be quite prominent on street and road signs, the "Moroccanization" of places and street names has been accompanied by road signs in Arabic, most often without French translation. Some printed material such as post office telegrams, medical prescriptions, police reports and restaurant menus tend to be exclusively in French.

Radio is divided among the use of French, Arabic (Modern Standard) and Berber, each language having its own network or station. Although Berber is not at all used on television, French comprises 1/3 of total output, with Modern Standard Arabic making up the other 2/3. The cinema plays a significant role in maintaining the status of French language and culture, since many films shown in Moroccan cinemas are either French productions or other foreign films dubbed into French. Moroccan filmmakers, however, have produced some noteworthy films in Moroccan colloquial Arabic.

The single most important factor in the maintenance of the linguistic status quo, however, has been the educational system, which until 1980 used very little Arabic for instruction beyond the second grade of primary school. In the 1980-81 academic year, primary school was completely arabized, with French taught only as a foreign language. It is envisioned that secondary school will be arabized by 1990, although well over half of secondary education today is French-medium. There are no immediate plans for the arabization of higher education, beyond the present system, where students in certain faculties (Humanities, Law and Theology, or Social Sciences) may choose to take their courses either in French or Arabic.

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Morocco - 2, Language Use Matrix

MOROCCO

Languages

Factoids	Arabic	French	Berber
1. Usage rating*	1	3	3
2. Increase/decrease	2	-	2
3. Chief of State use?	1	0	0
4. Armed Forces/written	2	2	0
5. Armed Forces/oral	1	1	0
6. Government/written	2	2	0
7. Government/oral, national	1	0	0
8. Government/oral, local	1	0	3
9. Court/written	1	0	0
10. Court/oral	1	0	3
11. Diplomatic use?	1	1	0
12. Higher education	1	1	0
13. Higher ed: required?	1	1	0
14. Secondary education	1	1	0
15. Secondary: required?	1	1	0
16. Primary education	1	1	0
17. Primary: required?	1	1	0
18. Adult education	4	0	0
19. Popular press use	1	1	0
20. Transmission across borders?	1	1	0
21. Use in radio broadcasting	2	2	2
22. Use in TV broadcasting	2	2	0
23. Use in film	1	1	0
24. Business/professional/written	2	2	0
25. Business/professional/oral	1	1	3
26. Use in intellectual circles	1	1	0
27. Alphabet situation*	1	1	0
28. Status of literature	1	2	0
29. Use in signs?	1	1	0
30. Teaching materials*	2	-	2
31. Bilingual dictionaries*	2	-	2

Notes:

Numbers are explained on following pages

? = information unavailable within time frame of project

- = not applicable

1. MID-1984 ESTIMATES, NUMBERS OF NATIVE SPEAKERS

Language	Numbers of Native Speakers	Percentage of Population
Arabic	14,160,000	60%
Berber	9,440,000	40%
French	-	-

27. TYPE OF ALPHABET USED

Language	Alphabet
Arabic	Arabic
French	Roman
Berber	Unwritten (except for an ancient form of writing called Tifinagh)

30. TEACHING MATERIALS FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Language	Text
Arabic Modern Standard	Abboud, Peter F. et al. Elementary Modern Standard Arabic, Parts I and II. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern and North African Studies, 1975-76.
	. Modern Standard Arabic, Intermediate Level: Parts I-III. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern and North African Studies, 1972.
	Azmi, Sanaa and Belkacem Baccouche. Conversations in Modern Standard Arabic. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1984.

30. TEACHING MATERIALS FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS, cont.

Language	Text
Arabic (Moroccan)	Abdel-Massih, Ernest T. An Introduction to Moroccan Arabic. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, 1973.
	. Advanced Moroccan Arabic. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, 1974.
	Migliozza, Ernest and Wali Alami. Spoken Moroccan Arabic: Pre-Speech. Prelim. ed. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, Intensive Language Training Center, 1966.
	Scholes, Irene and Wali Alami. Spoken Moroccan Arabic. Prelim. ed. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, Intensive Language Training Center, 1966.
	. Spoken Moroccan Arabic (Intermediate). Prelim. ed. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, Intensive Language Training Center, 1966.
Berber	Abdel-Massih, Ernest T. A Course in Spoken Tamazight; Berber Dialects of Ayt Ayache and Ayt Seghrouchen. Ann Arbor, MI: Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, 1971.

31. DICTIONARIES FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Arabic (Modern Standard)	al-Baalbaki, Munir. Al-Mawrid. A Modern English-Arabic Dictionary, 16th ed. Beirut, Lebanon: Dar al-'ilm lil Mabayin, 1982.
	Doniach, Nakdimon S., (ed.). The Oxford English-Arabic Dictionary of Current Usage. Oxford, England: Clarendon Press, 1978.
	Wehr, Hans. Arabic-English Dictionary. Translated and edited by J. Milton Cowan. Ithaca, NY: Spoken Language Services, 1977.
	al-Karmi, Hasan S. al-Manar, English-Arabic Dictionary. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1972.

31. DICTIONARIES FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS, cont.

Language	Texts
Arabic (Moroccan)	Harrell, Richard S. (ed). Comp. by Thomas Fox and Mohammed Abu-Talib. A Dictionary of Moroccan Arabic: Arabic-English (Richard Slade Harrell Arabic Series, No. 9). Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 1968.
	Sobelman, Harvey and Richard S. Harrell (eds.). Comp. by Thomas Fox et al. A Dictionary of Moroccan Arabic: English-Moroccan (Richard Slade Harrell Arabic Series, No. 3). Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 1963.
Berber	Abdel-Massih, Ernest T. A Computerized Lexicon of Tamazight; Berber dialect of Ayt Seghrouchen. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, 1971.

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Hammoud, Mohammed Salah-Dine. "Arabicization in Morocco: A Case Study in Language Planning and Language Policy Attitudes." Ph.D. dissertation, the University of Texas, Austin, 1982.

Gontard, Marc. Violence du Texte; La Litterature Marocaine de Langue Francaise. Paris: Editions L'Harmattan, 1981.

Grabe, William. "Morocco: Diglossia...Triglossia? The Language Situation in Morocco," in James Coady and Elona Lucas (eds.). Working Papers in Applied Linguistics. Athens, OH: Ohio University, 1979, pp. 11-21.

Gravel, L. "A Sociolinguistic Investigation of Multilingualism in Morocco." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University Teachers' College, 1979.

Gretton, John. "Morocco's Language Problems," Middle East International, No. 122, 1980, pp. 11-12.

Grimes, Barbara F. (ed.). Languages of the World, Ethonologue, 10th Edition. Dallas, TX: Wycliffe Bible Translators, 1984.

Laraki, A. "Condamnes a Arabiser," Jeune Afrique, No. 994, 23 January, 1980. pp. 87-89.

Massialas, Byron and Samir Ahmed Jarrar. Education in The Arab World. New York, NY: Praeger Publishers, 1983.

Micaud, Charles A. "Bilingualism in North Africa: Cultural and Sociopolitical Implications," Western Political Quarterly, Vol. 27, No. 1, 1974, pp. 92-103.

Language Use Matrix
Center for Applied Linguistics
April 1984
Numerical Scales - 1

1. Usage rating, using the State Department classifications
   1: Official language, most widely used.
   2: Official language, not most widely used.
   3: Widely used language, but not official. (Over 10% of population)
   4: Unofficial language used by significant minority (but less than 3)
   5: Unofficial language used by influential minority
   FOOTNOTE: NUMBERS OF SPEAKERS, PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

2. Increase/decrease trends by the year 2000
   1: Number of native speakers will increase in proportion
   2: Number of native speakers will remain proportionally constant
   3: Number of native speakers will decrease in proportion

3. Chief of State use, in addressing populace: YES (1) NO (0)

4. Armed Forces written communications
   1: Only language used in official communiques
   2: One of the languages used in official communiques
   0: Not used in official communiques

5. Armed Forces oral communications
   1: Used on all levels
   2: Used among officers only
   3: Used among multi-lingual NCO's and troops
   4: Used among monolingual troops only
   0: Not used

6. Written government communications
   1: Only language used in official communications
   2: One of the languages used in official communications
   0: Not used in official communications

7. Oral government communications/national level
   1: Official language spoken in national assembly
   2: One of the official languages spoken in national assembly
   0: Not used in government

8. Oral government communications/local level
   1: Official language in local government
   2: One of the official languages used in local government
   3: Allowed in local government proceedings, translated into official language
   0: Not used in local government

9. Court use in written communications
   1: Only language used in official communications
   2: One of the languages used in official communications
   0: Not used

Language Use Matrix
Center for Applied Linguistics
April 1984
Numerical Scales - 2

10. Court use in oral communications
    1: Only official language used in court
    2: One of the official languages used in court
    3: Allowed in courts, translated into official language(s)
    0: Not used in courts

11. Diplomatic use in notes to other countries: YES (1) NO (0)

12. Use in higher education
    1: Official medium of instruction
    2: Unofficial medium of instruction
    0: Not used

13. Language taught as subject in required courses in higher education:
    YES (1) NO (0)

14. Use in secondary education
    1: Official medium of instruction
    2: Unofficial medium of instruction
    0: Not used as medium of instruction

15. Language taught as subject in required courses on secondary level?
    YES (1) NO (0)

16. Use in primary education
    1: Official medium of instruction
    2: Unofficial medium of instruction
    0: Not used as medium of instruction

17. Language taught as subject in required courses on primary level?
    YES (1) NO (0)

18. Language use in adult education
    1: Used in oral and written technical instruction
    2: Used in oral and written life skills instruction
    3: Used in oral life skills instruction
    4: Used in literacy classes only
    0: Not used in adult informal education

19. Language use in popular press
    1: Used in publications throughout country
    2: Used in centrally-based publications with national distribution
    3: Used only in regional and local publications
    4: Used in clandestine publications only
    0: Not used

Language Use Matrix
Center for Applied Linguistics
April 1984
Numerical Scales - 3

20. Language used in radio/TV transmission across national borders?
YES (1) NO (0)

21. Language use in radio broadcasting
1: Language used broadcasting thoughout country
2: Language used in centrally-based national broadcasts
3: Language used in local broadcasting only
3: Language used in clandestine broadcasting only
0: Language not used in radio broadcasting

22. Language use in TV broadcasting
1: Language used in telecasting throughout country
2: Language used in centrally-based national telecasting
3: Language used regional and local telecasting only
0: Language not used in TV

23. Language use in film
1: Language used in indigenous film-making
2: Foreign-language films dubbed/subtitled into language
0: Language not used in films

24. Business/Professional use - written
1: Sole official language in business and professional communications
2: One of the official languages in business and professional communication
0: Not used

25. Business/Professional use - oral
1: Used in trade and commerce throughout country
2: Used in national trade and commerce only
3: Used only in local trade and commerce

26. Language use in intellectual circles
1: Language used in indigenous scholarly publications
2: Language used in formal scholarly discussion
0: Language not used

27. Alphabet situation
1: Established standardized alphabet exists.
2: Alphabet developed, no standardization
3: Competing alphabets exist
0: No alphabet exists
FOOTNOTE: TYPE OF ALPHABET USED

28. Status of indigenous literature
1: Established written tradition exists
2: Literature tradition emerging
3: Popular literature exists
0: No written literature exists

29. Language used in official public signs, notices: YES (1) NO (0)

30. Teaching materials for English speakers
    1: Wide range of teaching materials exists
    2: Narrow range of teaching materials exists
    0: No teaching materials exist
    FOOTNOTE: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

31. Dictionaries for English speakers
    1: Wide range of bilingual dictionaries exists
    2: Narrow range of dictionaries exists
    0: No dictionaries exist
    FOOTNOTE: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY